20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both by public and private agencies) for Economically weaker Sections (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG) category with a system of cross subsidization as part of the Reform agenda to be carried out at the State level.

The Prime Minister and Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation have addressed Chief Ministers of States to take steps to provide basic entitlements and amenities to the urban poor, including land tenure and affordable housing, in a time-bound manner.

Dialogue with Foreign Minister of Pakistan

*144. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met in May, 2008 to continue the unfinished dialogue;

(b) if so, whether there was also a meeting on Indo-Pak anti-terror mechanism in the month of October, 2008;

(c) if so, the main subjects discussed thereat;

(d) whether any agreement in regard to meeting the threat of terror has been reached;

(e) if so, to what extent both countries have implemented the proposals; and

(f) to what extent anti-terror mechanism of India and Pakistan has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism had discussed the bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul and other issues of concern. No response has been received from Pakistan on the details on the attack on the Embassy provided to it. Government awaits Pakistan's response.

(f) The joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism unfortunately has not delivered desired results on its mandate.

Gap in consumption-expenditure

†*145. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference in the consumption expenditure of the people living in the rural and urban areas of the country;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount of monthly expenditure on consumption, respectively, by the people living in the rural and urban areas during the years 2006 to 2008; and

(c) the details of this expenditure during the years 1990 to 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The per capita consumption expenditure in the rural and urban areas as obtained from the household consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), in its 45th to 48th rounds and 62nd and 63rd rounds covering the period 1990 to 1992 and 2006 to 2007 is given below. The latest data in this regard is available for 2006-07 (NSS 63rd round).

Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure in Rural and Urban Areas

	Period	NSS Round	per Capita Consumption (Rs.)		Ratio of Urban to Rural
			Rural	Urban	
1.	July 1989 to June 1990	45	189	298	1.57
2.	July 1990 to June 1991	46	202	327	1.62
3.	July 1991 to Dec. 1991	47	244	370	1.52
4.	Jan. 1992 to Dec. 1992	48	247	399	1.62
5.	July 2005 to June 2006	62	625	1171	1.87
6.	July 2006 to June 2007	63	695	1312	1.89

As can be seen from the above table, the per capita consumption expenditure in the urban areas is higher than that in the rural areas. The extent to which the per capita consumption expenditure in the urban areas exceeds that in the areas as a percentage is also given in the table.

Funds for national highway projects

*146. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to attract companies to invest in Highway projects, his Ministry has approached the Finance Ministry seeking low cost funds;

(b) whether a special window from the RBI that would provide for extension of reasonable interest rates for highway projects was also considered;

(c) if so, the projects that are being delayed due to want of funds and to what extent Government has agreed to provide funds to these projects;